Appendix E-2 EERE Data Center





Overview of the EERE Data Center

The Strategic Management System (SMS) will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the EERE business management functions of planning, budget formulation, program implementation, and program analysis and evaluation. One key tool for SMS is the EERE Data Center and its linkages to Departmental financial and procurement data systems and access to new data system files from the field (primarily the national laboratories for subcontract information). In this overview, there will be a brief discussion of this key tool and its advantages, if utilized, for EERE management, program managers, and the field.

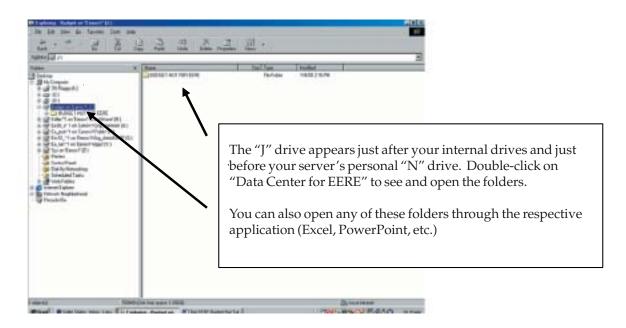
The Data Center provides a common format of key information that can be used for formulation of the budget request, track implementation of planned program actions, and measure performance against milestones. In addition to these important functions, this information can assist both program managers and EERE management in a number of ways. The data fields have been selected in order for these files to be centrally used by the Office of Technology Development and the Office of Business Administration (BA), to have the vast majority of quickresponse data tasks centrally answered without sending the task to the program manager. Currently, these tasks not only disrupt the daily activities of program managers, but also those of program implementers in the field (both at operations offices and national laboratories). If the information is properly utilized and maintained, tasks that concern projects/program work in certain Congressional Districts or states will be centrally answered. Other inquiries, such as identifying work by a certain performer, such as a specific national laboratory, can be quickly determined. We can quickly determine how much of the funding is being performed through competitive means and how much is being performed by lab sub-contract, in-house labs, CRADAs, or cooperative agreements. Non-Federal cost-sharing figures can also be quickly displayed at various breakout levels.

The Data Center contains downloads from departmental systems that will allow program managers the ability to obtain information on awards made by DOE Procurement Offices, including the date of award, status, recipient, recipient's address, and recipient's Congressional District. Similarly, monthly FIS information can be extracted by B&R code and performer (contractor identification number) on current costing and obligation information.

Since the Department's data systems provide only summary information for the national laboratories, additional electronic SMS information is required from these national laboratories, particularly concerning laboratory subcontracts. NREL provides an electronic file of information on its laboratory subcontracts (an updated file is provided monthly), which can be extracted by program. While the names and addresses of subcontractors are shown, Congressional Districts are not. TMS, the support service contractor for the SMS effort, will insert the Congressional District Codes for these laboratory subcontracts.

1. HOW TO USE THE EERE DATA CENTER

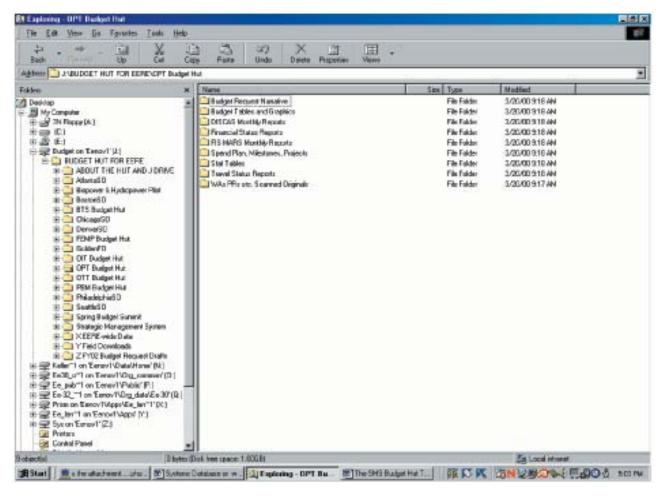
The EERE Data Center provides a "one stop shop" for managing and reporting a wide range of budget, financial, procurement, and administrative processes and data used daily by EERE management and staff in the implementation of the EERE mission.



The Center resides on the "J" drive of the EERE server and is accessible by any EERE Federal employee and select contractors. Users can access the Center from any location in the Forrestal building and the Golden Field Office that has a LAN connection to the EERE server.

The Center consists of several folders – one for each EERE major organizational element and others for all EERE – which in turn contain another set of folders for each of the systems and data covered in the Center.

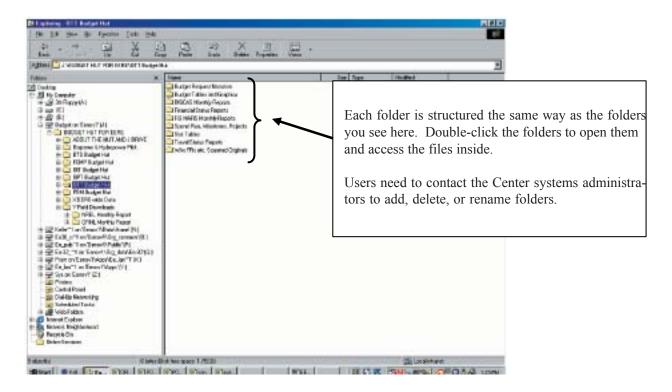
The major organizations with program-specific folders in the Center include each of the Program Offices. The folder for the DAS for Biopower Administration includes the data for the Office of the Assistant Secretary. Folders have also been established for the Golden Field Office and each of the Regional Offices.



The folders within each organization's folder include the following:

- Budget Request Narrative
- Budget Tables and Graphics
- DISCAS Monthly Reports
- Financial Status Reports
- FIS / MARS Monthly Reports
- PADS Reports
- Stat Tables
- Travel Status Reports
- WAs, PRs, etc. (Scanned Originals)

Instructions on how to use each of these folders begin in Chapter 2 of this tutorial.



Only members of the program have "read" access to the folders within any program folder. Only a few members of any program have "write" access to their folder. The programs determine who has "write" or "read" access to their folders.

The All-EERE folder contains:

- Data not readily divisible into program-specific components (e.g., monthly downloads from the Departmental Procurement and Assistance Data System PADS);
- Budget presentations and graphics of interest throughout EERE;
- Other documents of interest throughout EERE.

All EERE Federal employees and select contractors have "read" access to the All-EERE folder. Only a few members of the EERE Office of Business Administration (BA) have "write" access to that folder. Programs may request BA to add contractors and others to the list of those with "read" access to the All-EERE folder.

a. What Does the Center Do?

The Center integrates otherwise disparate data (MARS downloads, National Laboratory budget systems downloads, PADS downloads, travel system downloads, and others) by putting that data in the same place every month (the appropriate folder on the "J" drive) and rendering it all in Excel 2000. This allows users throughout EERE to easily find the data and focus on a single set of easy-to-use tools (Excel's "front end" subtotal, filter, pivot table, and sort tools) to access and manipulate the data as though it were part of a complex, integrated system. This also allows easier reporting of EERE-wide data.

The graphics, presentations, and other documents in the Center generally are in versions of Word, PowerPoint, and Word Perfect used widely throughout EERE.

b. Who Updates the Data in the Center?

The table below summarizes the main folders and the schedule for their respective updates. BA manages and updates almost every folder – for the most part populating those folders with re-formatted excerpts from existing Departmental and Field systems.

Folder	Updated by:	Updated when:	Folder Location
Budget Request Narratives	BA	As Required	program
Budget Tables and Graphics	whomever	As Required	program
DISCAS Monthly Reports	BA	Monthly	program
Financial Status Reports	BA	Monthly	program
FIS MARS Monthly Reports	BA	Monthly	program
PADS Reports	BA	Monthly	program
Stat Tables	BA	As Required	program
Travel Status Reports	BA	Monthly	program
WAs, PRs, Scanned Originals	BA	Monthly / As Required	program
NREL and ORNL Financial Status Report	ts BA	Monthly Y	Field Downloads

2. THE PROGRAM-SPECIFIC FOLDERS

The major organizations with program-specific folders in the Center include each of Program Offices. The folder for the DAS for BA includes the data for the Office of the Assistant Secretary.

The folders within each organization's folder include the following:

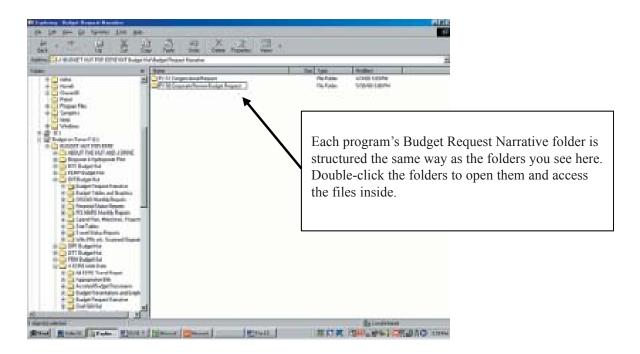
- Budget Request Narrative
- Budget Tables and Graphics
- DISCAS Monthly Reports
- Financial Status Reports
- FIS / MARS Monthly Reports
- PADS Reports

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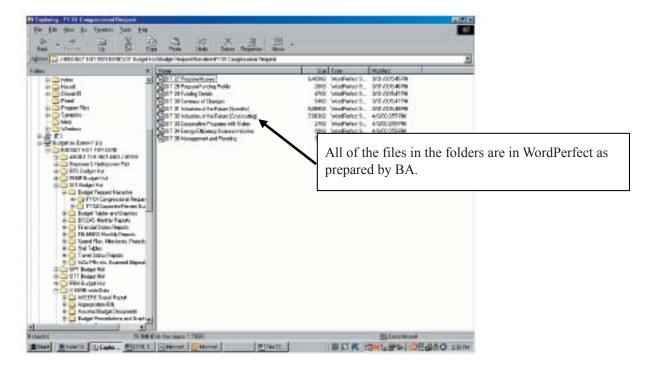
- Stat Tables
- Travel Status Reports
- WAs, PRs, etc. (Scanned Originals)

a. Budget Request Narrative

This folder provides a complete copy of the program's budget requests beginning with the FY 2001 Congressional Budget Request.



Each of the files – there are several for each folder for each request – include long file names and sequential numbering to make them easy to find.



b. Budget Tables and Graphics

This folder serves as a "grab bag" of sorts to provide a consistent location for miscellaneous budget tables, graphics, and other documents.

c. DISCAS Monthly Reports

Note: the DISCAS Monthly Reports are not yet available from the Data Center.

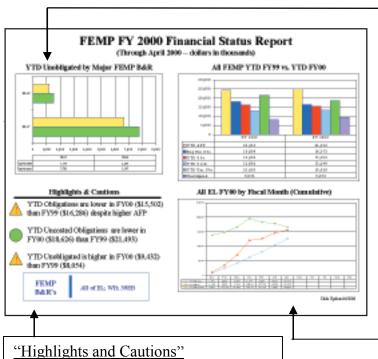
The DISCAS Monthly Reports excerpts

d. Financial Status Reports

This folder houses the program's monthly Financial Status Report as prepared by BA and discussed by the ASEE and the DASs once a month in the ASEE Senior Staff meeting generally held each Wednesday.

The first page of this two-page PowerPoint report includes three charts and a "Highlights and Cautions" section summarizing the status of obligations, costs, unobligated, and uncosteds for the program as reported by the DOE Financial Data Warehouse and maintained in the "FIS MARS Monthly Reports" folder provided for each program.

The second page includes two charts and a table.



"YTD Unobligated by Major EL B&R"

This graphic depicts unobligated by each major B&R that belongs to that sector.

"YTD FY99 vs. YTD FY00"

This graphic depicts: YTD AFP; YTD Authorized; Beginning Uncosted Obligations; YTD Obligations; YTD Costs; YTD Uncosted Obligations; and YTD Unobligated for the entire sector.

"FY00 by Month (Cumulative)"

This graphic depicts: YTD Authorized; YTD Obligations; YTD Costs; YTD Uncosted Obligations by month for the entire sector.

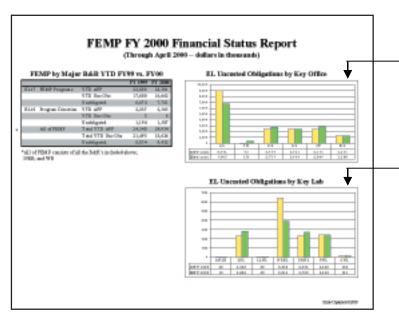
This graphic depicts key trends.

Depicts positive trends.

Depicts cautions.

Depicts serious problems.

The second page includes two charts and a table.



"Uncosted Obligations by Key Office"

This graphic depicts uncosted obligations for EERE B&Rs for the Operations Offices with which EERE does most of its business.

"Uncosted Obligations by Key Lab"

This graphic depicts uncosted obligations for EERE B&Rs for the National Labs with which EERE does most of its business.

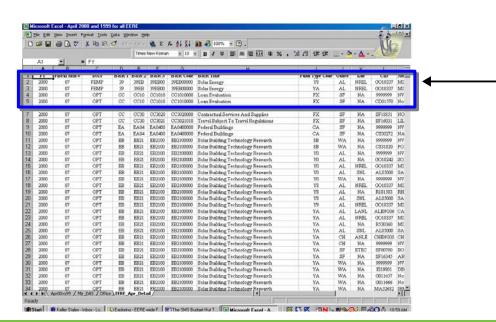
e. FIS MARS Monthly Reports

This folder holds program-specific, detail-level, monthly MARS data as downloaded and rendered to Excel through the DOE Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Financial Data Warehouse (FDW). BA updates the folder with a new monthly file by about the 15th of the following month. For example, May 2000 MARS data should be available from the folder by the 15th of June.

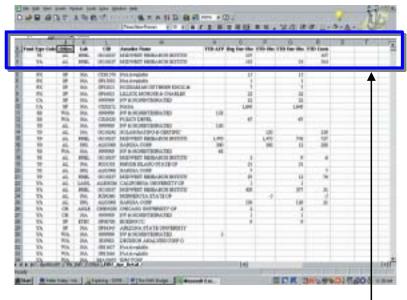
The structure of each download file within each program folder includes:

- Fiscal year
- Fiscal month number
- DAS
- B&R 1,2,3
- B&R Code and title
- Fund Type
- Operations Office
- National Laboratory
- Awardee CID

First 12 columns of the sheet

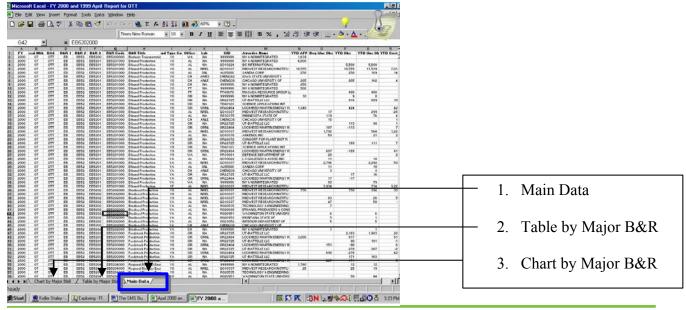


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- Awardee Name
- Approved Funding Program (AFP)
- Beginning Uncosted Obligations
- Year to Date (YTD) Obligations
- YTD Costs
- Ending Uncosted Obligations

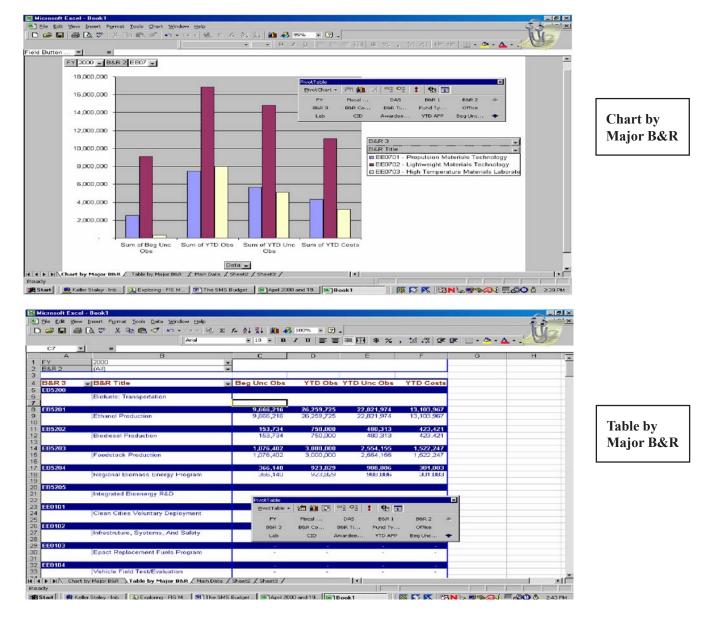
BA generally titles each program's monthly FIS MARS download file in terms such as "FY 2000 and 1999 April Report for OTT." Double-click on the file title to open the Excel workbook. The workbook includes three Excel worksheets titled:



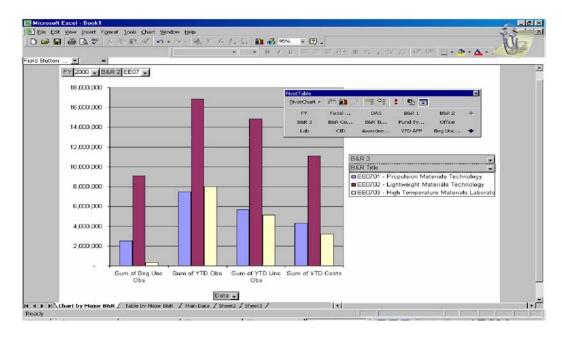
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Users can toggle between the three worksheets by clicking on the tabs at the bottom of the worksheet (see the graphic above).

The Main Data worksheet serves much like a database of raw data as downloaded from FIS MARS through the Financial Data Warehouse. Users can use the "Main Data" worksheet (applying "filter" and the "subtotal" Excel tools to manipulate the raw data) or use the preformatted "Table by Major B&R" and "Chart by Major B&R" worksheets built by using "Pivot Table" and "Pivot Chart".



Refer to "How to Use Auto Filter" (page E2-13) and "How do I get Subtotals Automatically?" (E2-15) to learn more about using "filter" and "subtotal" to manipulate the Main Data worksheet.

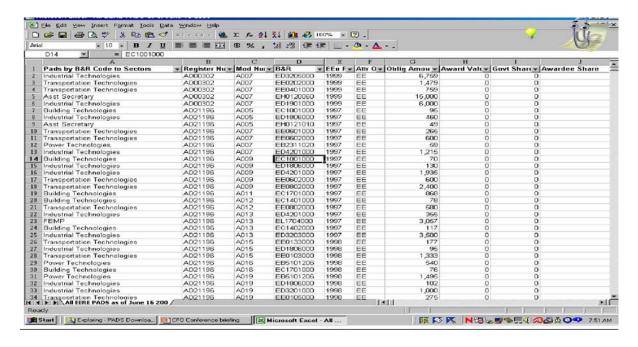


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f. PADS Reports

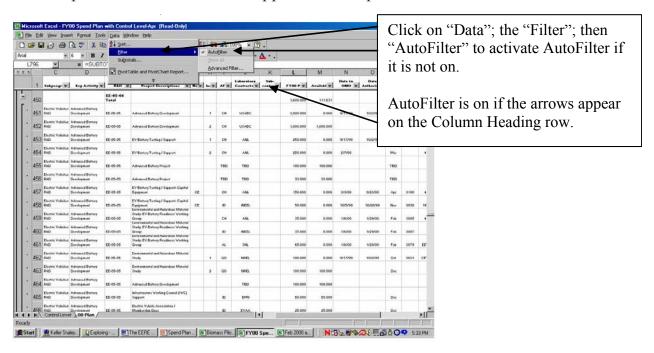
The Procurement and Assistance Data System (PADS) is the official Departmental system for tracking the status, value, and other characteristics of almost all direct contracts, cooperative agreements, grants, and other acquisition vehicles. Key fields in PADS include, among numerous others, are: awardee; awardee location (state, city, address, district); award value; obligations by year; modifications by year (dollar value); and type of award.

The Data Center updates the PADS data monthly and displays in three different formats: Main Data, Pivot Table, and Pivot Chart.



i. How to Use Auto Filter

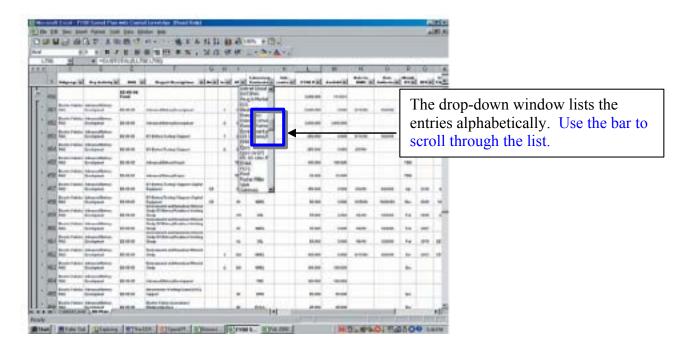
Auto Filter is an Excel tool that allows you pick an item in a column and see every row in which that item appears. To pick every instance of "NREL" in the "Laboratory / Contractor" column Z for example, click on the arrow that appears at the top of that column.



(Note: If the arrow does not appear, Auto Filter is not on. To turn it on, click on any cell in the spreadsheet, click on the "Data" box at the top of the screen, and click on "Auto Filter" in the drop-down window. The arrows should appear at the top of each column automatically.)

Clicking on the Auto Filter arrow automatically produces a drop-down window that lists in alphabetical order every unique laboratory and contractor name that appears in that column. Select the item you want to see by clicking on it. The spreadsheet automatically filters to show the entire row of every instance of the item you selected – all other rows are filtered out.

A subtotal will appear at the bottom of the filtered list if the "Subtotal" tool has been activated previously. To see subtotals otherwise, you can activate the "Subtotal" tool or click the " Σ " key at the top of the Excel screen. [See more on subtotals in the, "How to Use Subtotals," section of this manual.]



ii. How to Use the Scroll and Freeze Panes Features

It is often useful to scroll down or to the right of a spreadsheet and still see the column headings or the first few columns of a row. Excel provides two ways to do this.

The first feature relates only to freezing the column headings as you scroll down a spreadsheet. Activate the feature by moving the cursor to the top right corner of the borders of the Excel screen – to the horizontal bar that appears just above the arrow in the page-long vertical bar that appears at the right of the screen. When the cursor touches the bar, it will become highlighted as a small horizontal bar with small two arrows pointing up and down. To freeze the column heading row so that it appears regardless how far down the spreadsheet you scroll, hold the left click button down and pull the highlighted bar to the line between the first and second rows. Release the button, and the scroll feature is activated until you deactivate it by moving the bar back to its original position.

The second feature freezes both horizontally and vertically. Activate the feature by clicking on the cell that is just below and to the right of the rows and columns you want to remain static ("frozen") regardless where you are in the spreadsheet. The most useful place to do this is just below the column headings row (so that you can see the column headings at all times) and just to the right of the "Title" columns.

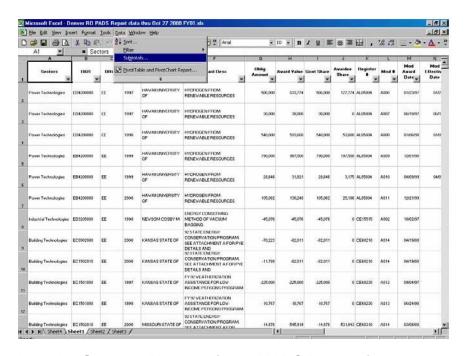
After clicking on the cell, click on the "Window" key at the top of the Excel screen and then click on "Freeze Panes". Deactivate the "Freeze Panes" feature by returning to the "Window" key and click on "Unfreeze Panes."

iii. How do I Add a New Item (a New Row) to the Spreadsheets?

The most efficient way to add a new row is to copy a row of data closest in content to the one you want to add and then paste that row into a blank row you create. To do this, click on any cell in the row just below the row where you want the new item to appear – that, probably, is the row closest in content to the row you sent to add. Insert a new blank row by clicking on "Insert" at the top of the Excel screen; then click on "Row" and a blank row will appear above the row you originally clicked. Click on the box to the left of the row you want to copy – the box where the number of the row appears – to highlight the entire row. Click on the "copy" icon at the top of the Excel screen; move the cursor to the numbered box of the blank row you just created; and click the "paste" icon. Change the fields in the new row as appropriate.

iv. How do I Get Subtotals Automatically?

Activate the "Subtotals" feature of Excel by clicking on the "Data" key at the top of the Excel screen.



How do I See Only My Items in the MARS Reports?

The Spend Plan focuses on funding actions through the process by which they are planned, initiated, approved by the DAS organization, forwarded to BA, and authorized by BA. The graphic below depicts the process that the Spend Plan tracks.

It is important to understand that no other system in the Department or in the Field tracks the various funding actions during the 30 - 60 days they are within EERE.

List of Acronyms

AFP Approved Funding Plan AOP Annual Operating Plan B&R Budget & Reporting

CFD Computational Fluid Dynamics

CFO Chief Financial Officer
CID Contractor Identification #

DISCAS Departmental Integrated Standard Cost & Accounting System

DOE Department of Energy

EERE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

FDW Financial Data Warehouse

FEMP Federal Energy Management Program

FIS Financial Information System

FWP Field Work Proposal

FY Fiscal Year

GPRA Government Performance and Results Act

IOF Industries Of the Future

M&O Management & Operating (contract)
MARS Management Analysis Reporting System
NREL National Renewable Energy Laboratory
OMB Office of Management and Budget

OPBM Office of Planning, Budget and Management PADS Procurement and Assistance Data System PNGV Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles

PR Procurement Request
R&D Research & Development
SMS Strategic Management System

WA Work Authorization